

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 14-22 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 24, 40, 41, and 59 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-13, 23-42, 45-57, and 59 are pending and under consideration.

Rejection of Claim 59 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 59 is amended to overcome this rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, and 24-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,046,276 issued to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hashimoto", in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.2001/0033333 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Suzuki") in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0186315 to Yoshida et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Yoshida"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, and Yoshida, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claims 1 and 24.

On page 6, the Office Action notes that Hashimoto does not disclose this subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that Suzuki does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto.

The Office Action asserts that Yoshida teaches the above subject matter of claims 1 and 24. More specifically, the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the Office Action states,

"Yoshida discloses a camera housing (refer to [0024]-[0034] and Figures 6 and 7 comprising a first housing (Figure 6, "11"); a second housing in a parallel relation facing the receiving area of the first housing (Figure 6, "12"); and a middle housing having one or more operational manipulators to control the single chip controller and supported in between the first and second housings ([0027] and Figure 6, "61", "62", "67"), and wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned on a top portion of the first and second body housings (Figure 6, "11", "12", and Figure 7)."

The Office Action appears to assert that unit assembly substrate 61, core substrate 62, and operating dial 67 of Yoshida corresponds to a "middle housing" as recited in claims 1 and 24. This assertion is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that substrates for circuit components and an operating dial as taught by Yoshida do not form a housing.

Moreover, the Office Action asserts that the outermost housing 11 and front panel 12 correspond to the "first and second housings" as recited in the claims. However, the outermost housing 11 and the front panel 12 of Yoshida do not correspond to the "first and second housings" as recited in the claims, because Yoshida's outermost housing 11 and front panel 12 do not cover a camera unit. The location of the outermost housing 11 and front panel 12 in Figures 1 and 2 of Yoshida clearly show that the outermost housing 11 and the front panel 12 do not cover the camera unit, where the camera unit includes a lens. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 24 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3-6 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24 and include all of the features of claim 24. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 25 and 26 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2 and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki in further view of Yoshida and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 1. The Admitted Prior Art does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, Suzuki and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 2 and 23 depend from claim 21 and include all of the features of claim 21. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 2 and 23 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 7-13 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki in further view of Yoshida and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117499 to Bianchi et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bianchi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, and Bianchi, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 1. Bianchi does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, Suzuki, and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 7-13 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 7-13 also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 26-32 and 35-39 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 26-32 and 35-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki in further view of Yoshida and Bianchi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, and Bianchi, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 24. Bianchi does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, Suzuki, and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 24 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 26-32 and 35-39 depend from claim 24 and include all of the features of claim 24. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 26-32 and 35-39 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 33-34 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki in further view of Yoshida, Bianchi, and U.S. Patent No. 7,317,475 issued to Arai et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Arai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, Bianchi, and Arai, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 24. Arai does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, and Bianchi. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 24 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 33-34 depend from claim 24 and include all of the features of claim 24. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 33-34 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 40-42, 47-49, 52, and 57 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 40-42, 47-49, 52, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of AAPA in further view of Yoshida. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, AAPA, and, Yoshida, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claims 40 and 41. AAPA does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 40 and 41 are patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 42, 47-49, 52, and 57 depend from claim 41 and include all of the features of claim 41. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 42, 47-49, 52, and 57 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 45 and 46 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of AAPA in further view of Yoshida and Suzuki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, AAPA, Yoshida, and Suzuki, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 41. Suzuki does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, AAPA, and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 41 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 45-46 depend from claim 41 and include all of the features of claim 41. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 45-46 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 50-51 and 53-56 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 50-51 and 53-56 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of AAPA in further view of Yoshida and Bianchi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, APPA, Yoshida, and Bianchi, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 41. Bianchi does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, APPA, and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 41 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 50-51 and 53-56 depend from claim 41 and include all of the features of claim 41. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 50-51 and 53-56 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 59 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Suzuki in further view of Yoshida and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0012826 to Hattori et al. (hereinafter referred to "Hattori"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto, Suzuki, Yoshida, and Hattori, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "wherein the first and second housings each comprises an integral concave casing area covering the camera unit supported by the middle housing and positioned at a top portion of the first and second housings, and wherein the camera unit includes a lens," as recited in independent claim 1. Hattori does not cure the deficiencies of Hashimoto, Suzuki, and Yoshida. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 59 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 59 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-13, 23-42, 45-57, and 59 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.


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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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